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SPORTS, 1B

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> CLASSIFIED, SECTION D

JANUARY 11, 2018

Lawyer: Lynch denies allegations

Suspended Gophers basketball player claims he did not have sex with 2 accusers

By Chad Graff
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The newly hired lawyer for suspended Gophers basketball player Reggie Lynch

claimed Wednesday that sexual intercourse never happened between Lynch and two accusers, despite separate university investigations that found Lynch "responsible" for

both incidents of sexual misconduct, which resulted in one recommendation for a 31-month ban from campus and another for expulsion. During a 57-minute news

conference at his office in downtown Minneapolis, attorney Ryan Pacyga:

•Said Lynch "vehemently"



REGGIE LYNCH, 8A

Reggie Lynch

Rice Park is losing trees for makeover

Some speculated it was for ice palace

By Frederick Melo
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The removal of half the trees in downtown St. Paul's cherished Rice Park is for its long-awaited makeover — not for a towering ice palace being built in time for the Super Bowl.

After more than two years of organizing, private fundraising for the park's renovation has hit its \$1.35 million goal. The city last week began removing 27 of the park's 53 trees for the makeover. Thirteen will ultimately be replanted with better spacing between them.

Meanwhile, the St. Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation is installing a 70-foot-tall, 4,000-block ice palace in the park in time for Super Bowl LII and the St. Paul

RICE PARK, 8A

Countdown to Crashed Ice



JEAN PIERI / PIONEER PRESS

A worker holds on to one of the side walls as he walks on the Red Bull Crashed Ice course under construction in downtown St. Paul on Wednesday. The event — where skaters race down a 1,600-foot-long ice track that begins outside the Cathedral of St. Paul — is returning to the city for the sixth time. It takes place the weekend of Jan. 19-20, and in the past has drawn more than 100,000 spectators.

How Carter selected his cabinet

Some hirings varied from panels' advice

By Frederick Melo
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When Catherine Penkert applied to run St. Paul Parks and Recreation in late November, a community hiring panel assembled by then-Mayor-elect Melvin Carter was truly impressed.

Penkert, a department employee and founding organizer of the city's "Right Track" youth internship program, received nine votes of confidence from the nine members and moved forward in the process. She then met with Carter for an interview. But she didn't get that job.

Instead, Carter and Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher chose Penkert to run the St. Paul Public Library System, though she lacks library

CARTER'S CABINET, 8A



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Dreamers," people brought to the U.S. illegally as children, and other supporters of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program listen as lawmakers speak at the Capitol in Washington on Wednesday.

Trump denounces judge's ruling to halt DACA order

Decision comes amid immigration efforts

By Brian Bennett and Lisa Mascaro
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A federal judge's decision to stop President Donald Trump from ending protections for so-called Dreamers offered the young immigrants a temporary reprieve but may have

stalled the urgency in Congress toward a more lasting legislative solution.

The president denounced the federal courts Wednesday as "broken and unfair" after a district judge in San Francisco late Tuesday issued a temporary ruling keeping the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in place, despite Trump's decision to end it this year. The

IMMIGRATION, 13A

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